

Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAB-01 IO-10 /066 W
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P R 191715Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6999

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 1918

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NU

SUBJECT: PANAMANIAN BRIEF SOMOZA

1. PANAMANIAN MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY FERNANDO MANFREDO AND CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATOR CARLOS LOPEZ GUEVARA WERE IN MANAGUA MAY 12 TO SPEAK TO PRESIDENT SOMOZA ABOUT STATUS OF CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS.

2. ACCORDING TO SOMOZA, PANAMANIAN WERE LOW-KEY, SPECIFICALLY AVOIDING DIRECT PITCH FOR NICARAGUAN SUPPORT AND ONLY ASKING SOMOZA FOR HIS UNDERSTANDING. SOMOZA THOUGHT PANAMANIAN WERE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS, REMARKING THAT AGREEMENT TIME-SPAN WAS ONLY TRUE OUTSTANDING ISSUE.

3. SHOWING SOME IRRITATION ABOUT THE RECENT CENTRAL AMERICAN TRAVELS OF CHIEF OF STATE TORRIJOS WHICH DID NOT INCLUDE NICARAGUA, SOMOZA ICILY ADMONISHED HIS VISITORS TO "TELL OMAR THAT HE HAS BEEN VIOLATING MY AIR SPACE WHILE HE SENDS HIS MINISTERS TO TALK WITH ME."

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4. SOMOZA SAID THAT PANAMANIANIS DID NOT TRY TO ENLIST NICARAGUAN SUPPORT FOR UN SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT IN LIEU OF ARGENTINA; HE PRESUMES BECAUSE THEY KNEW NICARAGUAN COMMITMENT TO ARGENTINA WAS FIRM. SOMOZA REITERATED TO ME HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT IN ATTEMPTING TO GET COUNCIL SEAT, PANAMA WILL GO BEYOND LA CAUCUS DECISION AND APPEAL TO MORE SYMPATHETIC EARS AMONG WIDER MEMBERSHIP.
SHELTON

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NNN

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